

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An automatic document feeder for feeding a batch of documents to an imaging device. The automatic document feeder includes a controller for controlling separation of documents from the batch of documents based on whether material type of the batch of documents is either color-recorded paper or normal paper. The controller also controls separation based on whether the imaging device has color recording capabilities or whether the recording mode has been set to either a color recording mode or a monochrome recording mode. When the documents are color-recorded paper or the mode of recording is color recording, the controller sets the separation interval of subsequent documents longer than when the documents are normal paper or the mode of recording is monochrome recording, thereby preventing collision of a preceding document and a subsequent document and thus preventing a decrease in productivity during monochrome printing.